

Outdoor Recreation

Bridger-Teton National Forest

Your place for memorable wildlife, wilderness, wild
river and winter recreation experiences



June 2016



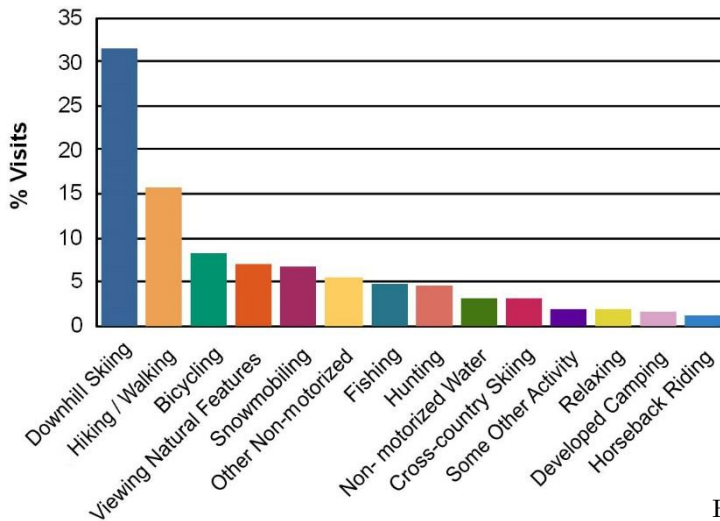
The Bridger-Teton is an integral part of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and is highly valued for its large backcountry and wilderness areas offering outstanding solitude and wildlife related opportunities; free-flowing rivers with associated recreation opportunities; and unparalleled winter recreation at both developed ski areas and in the backcountry. Destination and front-country areas concentrate visitor use while protecting wildland values and are key to the social and economic health and vitality of adjacent communities.



Vision

The Bridger-Teton is home to world-class headwaters, wildlife, Wilderness, and wildlands. Providing for year round recreation and sustainable uses, while conserving these values, is our legacy.

What visitors do – primary activity

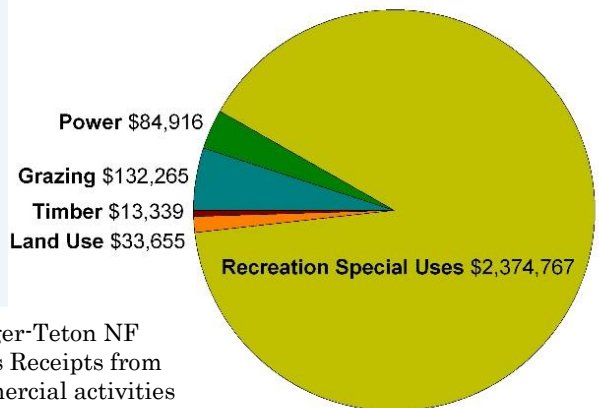


The Bridger-Teton is a high use Forest - **2.2 million** annual visitors

Undeveloped areas are the draw ... 61% of use occurs in these areas

We serve communities, providing lifestyle amenities - 54% of visitors live within 50 miles of the Forest

Visitors to the Bridger-Teton spend nearly \$95 million bolstering the local economy



Bridger-Teton NF
Gross Receipts from
commercial activities
2014

Strategic direction

1. Connect people with their natural and cultural heritage. Improve access through a integrated system of sustainable roads and trails. Modernize the permit program.
2. Increase staff and funding capacity to improve community service, partnerships and volunteer programs that enhance the delivery of sustainable recreation benefits.
3. Value iconic places, enhancing visitor services and proactive management to offer a spectrum of opportunities for quality outdoor experiences.
4. Improve public information and education to tell the story about the National Forest and communicate recreation benefits including health, lifestyle and economic contributions. Develop and implement a digital info strategy. Reach out to youth.

Developed Recreation

214 sites

Signature sites reflect what attracts visitors to the area and define what is highly valued about the Forest.

Unlike many other National Forests, signature sites on the Bridger-Teton are not campgrounds. Instead, they include major wilderness and snowmobile trailheads, historic cabins available for rent, boat ramps along wild and scenic rivers, and unique geological interpretive sites.

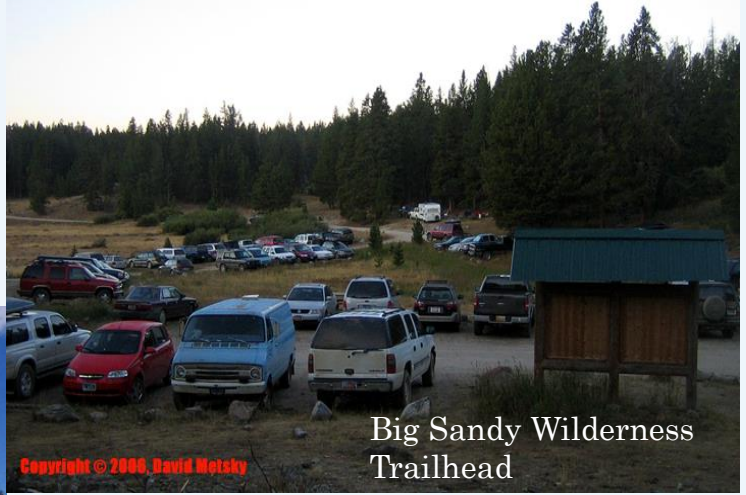
Historic cabin available for rent



Partnerships are helping add food storage boxes to keep people and bears safe



Granite Hot Springs
60% increase in use
over past six years

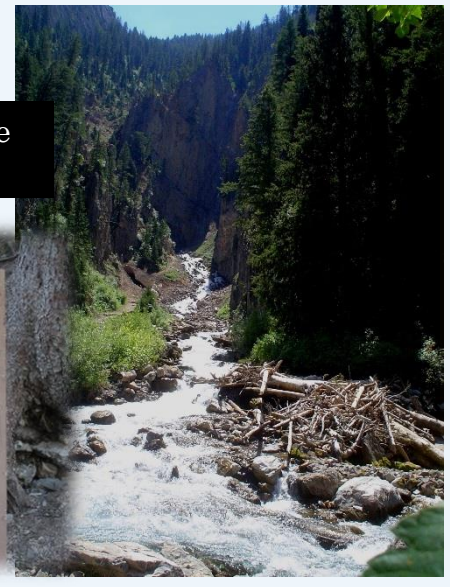
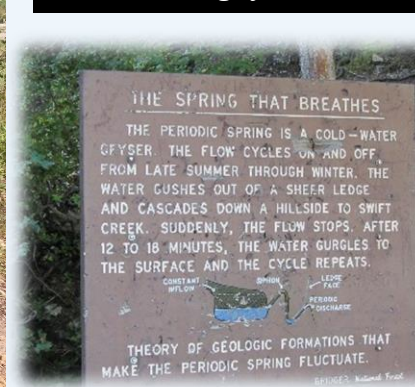


Big Sandy Wilderness
Trailhead

\$2M needed to bring sites up to
standard for public health and safety

\$4.7M in improvements needed to
protect the integrity of signature sites
that attract visitors and residents.

Periodic Springs – a rare
cold-water geyser



Dispersed Summer Recreation and Travel Management



Dispersed recreation focuses on the non-Wilderness portion of the Forest (2 million acres)

Most visitor use occurs in undeveloped areas of the Forest. Stewardship tasks include educational work to promote responsible use through field presence and outreach, sign production and installation, enforcing forest regulations such as food storage and campfire safety, implementing the motor vehicle travel plan, and planning to provide a spectrum of quality outdoor experiences.



Trail Maintenance and Improvement

Trails facilitate access to the outdoors, providing multiple community and lifestyle benefits.

- * 3,340 miles of system trail including 255 miles of designated National System trail
- * Many local partners invest in trails and provide over 15,000 hours of annual volunteer service
- * Only 18% of the trail system meets standards for sustainability
- * \$8 million maintenance backlog



Winter Recreation

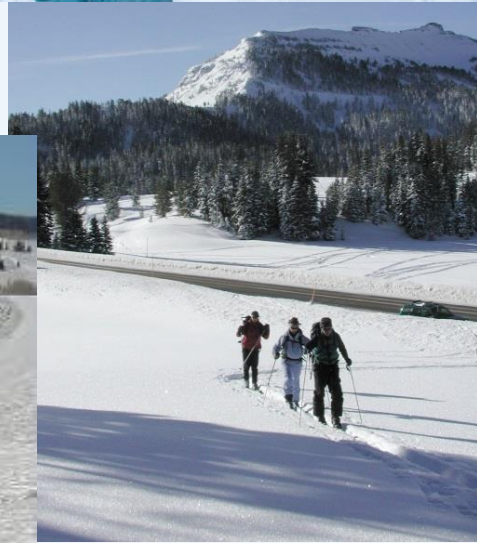
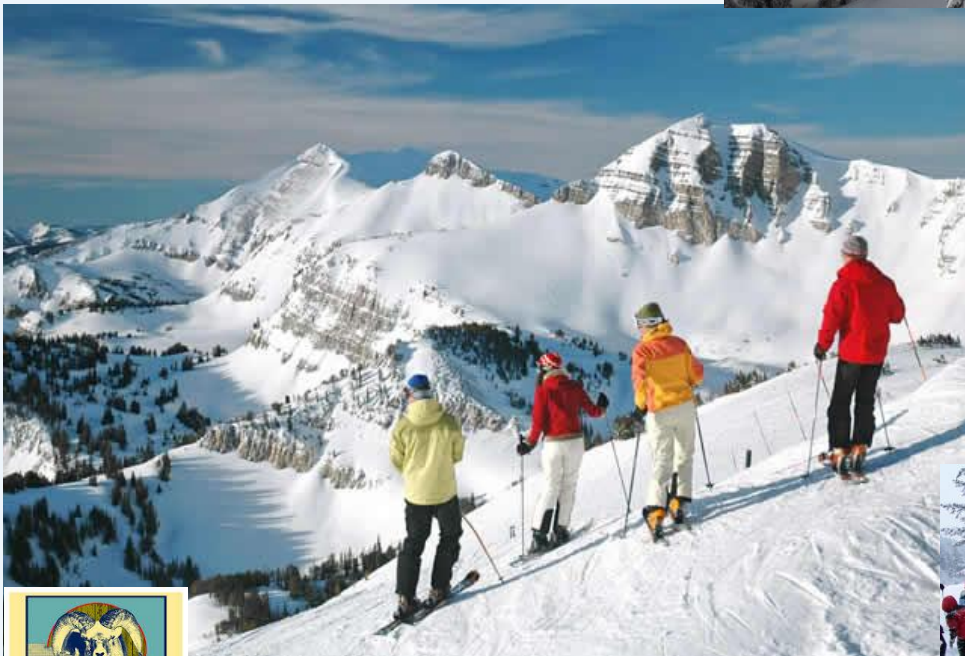
3 ski resorts with use increasing annually

JHMR – top rated destination resort with 550,000 annual skier visits

700 miles of winter trails including the Continental Divide groomed trail

Avalanche forecast center – 1.5 million annual contacts, increasing 10% each year

Backcountry ski destination (e.g. Teton Pass)



Recreation Permits

396 recreation
special use
permits

211 outfitter-
guide permits
-- 2nd largest program
in the nation, 49% of
the intermountain
region program

Recreation events
draw national
participation



National Wild and Scenic Rivers, Lakes

315 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers designated to protect and enhance free-flowing water, water quality and outstandingly remarkable values of the Snake River Headwaters. Lake Alice and Fremont Lake are large lakes offering accessible adventure.

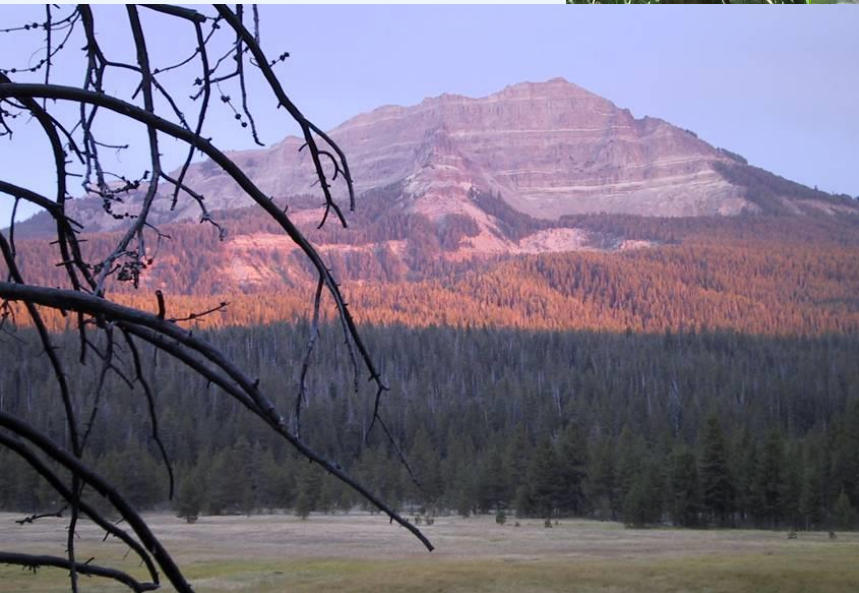


Wilderness and WSAs

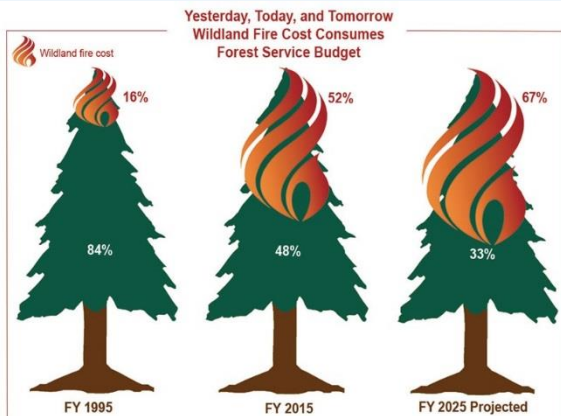
1.4 million acres

Congressionally designated to preserve wilderness character

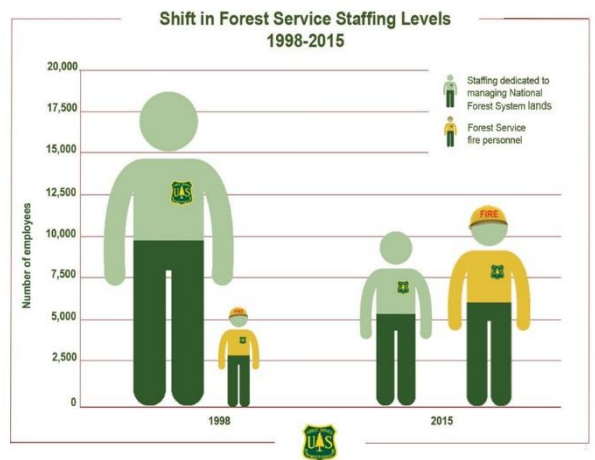
These special places contain a national geologic site and natural landmark, some of the world's largest glaciers, the origin of long wildlife migration routes, one of the nation's first natural fire plans, and a nationally recognized air quality program.



National Budget Picture



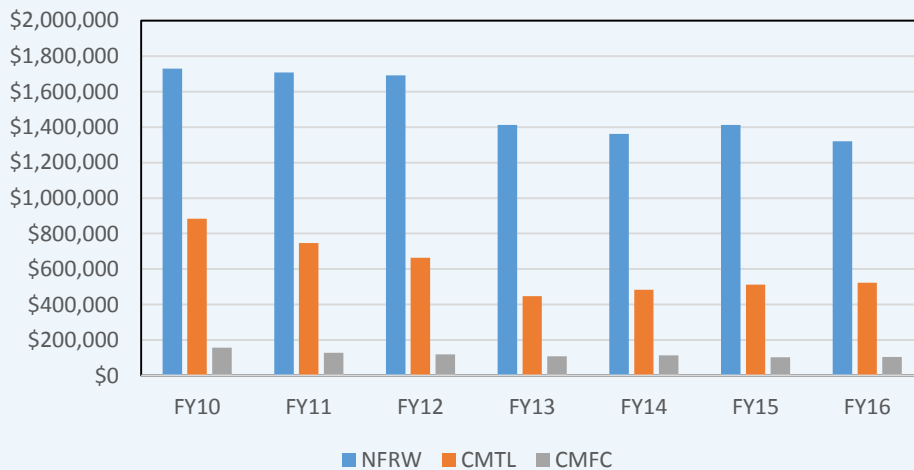
Between 2001 and 2015 - Rec budget reduced by 15%
Facilities Maintenance & Improvement budget reduced by 68%



Fire is consuming far more of the available budget, largely due to increasing cost of fire-fighting in the wildland urban interface. A 2015 study concluded that the Forest Service can not meet its mission in non-fire programs without a change in how wildfires are funded.

Bridger-Teton Budget Picture

Recreation allocation FY10-FY16



Decline in recreation funding FY 2010 – FY 2016

Recreation, Wilderness, heritage	-23.6%
Trail maintenance	-40.8%
Recreation facility maintenance	-33.3%

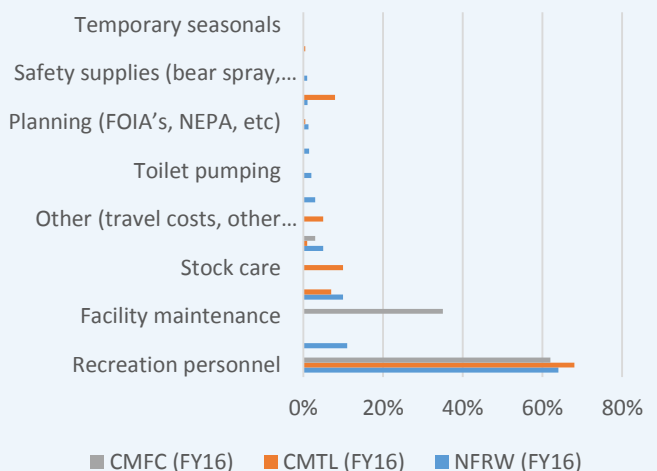
Recreation Staffing

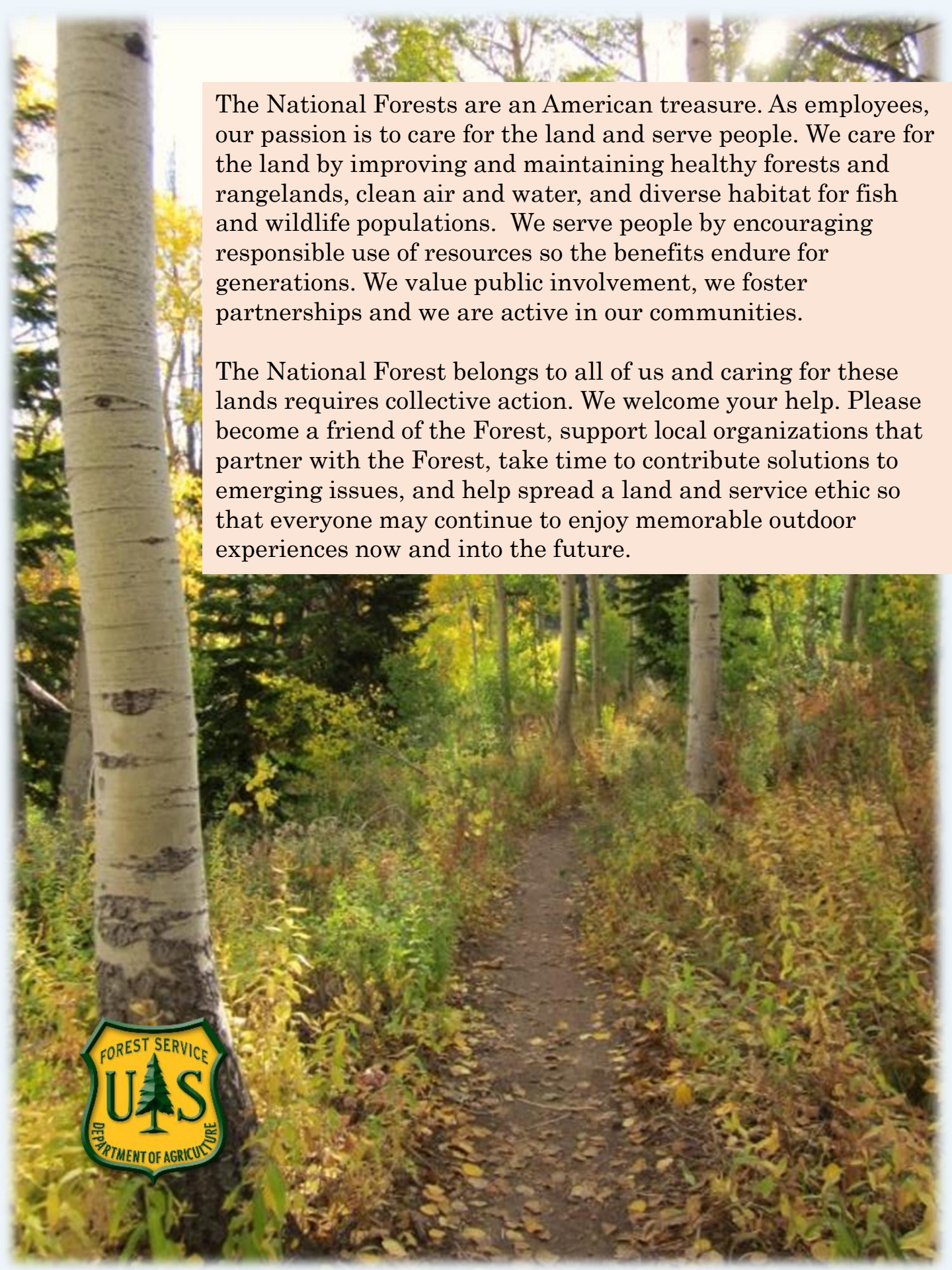
Since 2009, 9 full-time recreation positions have been eliminated.

The current recreation workforce includes 24 full-time employees to cover the 3.4 million acre National Forest across six ranger districts. 6 positions are currently vacant.

A minimally viable organization would include filling the 6 vacant positions, adding 1 program manager, and increasing the number of field technicians with a focus on trails and dispersed recreation. The additional budget needed to realize this organization is estimated to be approximately \$550,000.

Percentage of funds in different categories



The background of the entire page is a photograph of a forest. On the left side, a large, light-colored tree trunk (likely a birch) is visible, showing some bark peeling. A dirt path leads from the bottom center towards the background, flanked by dense green and yellow foliage. The sun is visible in the upper right corner, creating a bright glow.

The National Forests are an American treasure. As employees, our passion is to care for the land and serve people. We care for the land by improving and maintaining healthy forests and rangelands, clean air and water, and diverse habitat for fish and wildlife populations. We serve people by encouraging responsible use of resources so the benefits endure for generations. We value public involvement, we foster partnerships and we are active in our communities.

The National Forest belongs to all of us and caring for these lands requires collective action. We welcome your help. Please become a friend of the Forest, support local organizations that partner with the Forest, take time to contribute solutions to emerging issues, and help spread a land and service ethic so that everyone may continue to enjoy memorable outdoor experiences now and into the future.

